

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 11 and 15 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 13, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Tock (U.S. Patent No. 5,815,718); claims 2 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Tock and Snyder, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,161,147); claims 4 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Tock and Tso, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,247,050); claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Tock and Kimishima (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,846); and claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tock in view of Kimishima and Tso, et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Prior to addressing the specific rejections, a brief description of applicant's embodiments will first be presented in order to facilitate an understanding of applicant's claimed invention.

The embodiments of applicant's invention provide means which allow devices (e.g., printers, facsimile, television, radio, etc.) connected to a network to have limited resources, such as memory, and still be able to execute all specific processes requested of the device. In order to accomplish this, the devices are connected through the network to a separate memory device. The

memory device stores all necessary executable modules which are necessary for executing specific processes. When an execution module is received by the device, the requested process is executed and the execution module is then removed from the memory of the device. Thus, this process enables the device to execute a large number of processes without having to store each execution module in the device memory. Therefore, less memory is required within the device, allowing the device to obtain the benefits associated with having less memory (e.g., less cost, smaller dimensions, etc.)

In contrast to applicant's embodiments, Tock discloses a method and system which provides an off-line class loader for partitioning an executable module into two separate addresses. The first address contains data that may be varied during execution and thus this information is loaded into a random access memory (RAM). The second address contains static data, data that does not change, and is therefore loaded into a read only memory (ROM). By separating the module in this manner, only a portion of the RAM is used thereby allowing more space in the RAM for other operations or modules.

The Examiner refers to Fig. 1 of Tock, alleging that it discloses applicant's claimed invention. Fig. 1 does illustrate computers and servers linked together through a network of which the computers and services may exchange information through this network. Nowhere in Tock, however, does it disclose or teach the transmission of a functional request from one device to a

separate second device through a network, where the second device, upon receiving the request, retrieves a module for executing the request from a separate memory through the network. Therefore, Tock does not anticipate claim 1 because Tock fails to disclose each and every element of the system recited therein, which includes a memory, linked to the network, for storing a plurality of function executing modules which execute specific processes, a request device which outputs an execution request for executing one of the specific processes and an execution device for receiving, through the network, the execution request output from the request device, acquiring, through the network, one of the plurality of function execution modules which has a function of realizing the execution request from the memory, and executing the acquired function execution module. Independent claims 11 and 15 similarly define over Tock.

Further, Snyder, Tso and Kimishima do not make up for the deficiencies of Tock. In contrast to applicant's claimed embodiments, Snyder discloses a thread that cycles through a system deleting or deactivating objects based on certain criteria. Tso discloses a system for requesting and retrieving by a client computer, network information of which information pertaining to a performance improvement associated with the retrieval or transmission is also transmitted to the client computer. Finally, Kimishima discloses a communication control module for controlling the establishment of a

communication path between devices. None of the references, alone or in combination (assuming these references are combinable, which applicant does not admit), teaches or suggests applicant's claimed invention. Therefore, claims 2-10, 12-14 and 16, which depend from claims 1, 11 and 15, are likewise distinguishable over the cited reference for at least the reasons above as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 & §103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

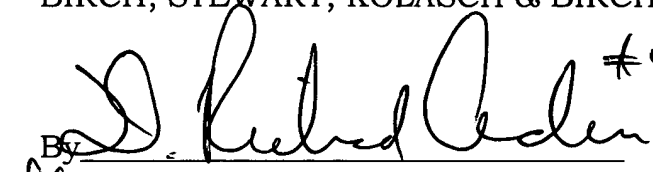
For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-16 are distinguishable over the cited references. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's representative at the number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment

MARKED-UP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES BEING MADE

In the Claims

Claim 1. (Amended)

A system of dynamic module configuration which is linked through a network comprising:

a memory, linked to the network, for storing [memorizing] a plurality of function executing modules which execute specific processes;

a request device which outputs an execution request for executing one of the specific processes [to the network]; and

an execution device for receiving, through the network, the execution request output from the request device [through the network], acquiring, through the network, one of the plurality of function executing modules which has a function of realizing the execution request from the memory [through the network], and executing the [an] acquired function execution module.

Claim 11. (Amended)

A dynamic module configuration method using a network comprising the steps of:

storing in a memory [memorizing] a plurality of function executing modules for executing specific processes;

outputting, through the network, an execution request for executing modules for executing one of the specific processes to an execution device, [the network]; and

receiving, by the execution device, the execution request through the network, acquiring, through the network, one of the plurality of function executing modules from the memory which has a function of realizing the execution request [through the network], and executing the [an] acquired function execution module.

Claim 15. (Amended)

A system of dynamic module configuration comprising:

an internal resource of a device for performing an original function of the device; and

an execution device for

receiving an execution [access] request, through a network, which requests a performance of a function of [information in] the device,

acquiring, from an external resource, one of a plurality of function execution modules[, from an external resource,] which has a function of realizing the execution [access] request, and

executing the [an] acquired function execution module,
wherein the receiving, acquiring and executing are performed by using a
part of the internal resource.